

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

Volume 42  
Issue 2 *Fall* 2012

Article 51

Fall 2012

# [what Doctor Is / What Doctor Is Not]

Debora Kuan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

## Recommended Citation

Kuan, Debora. "[what Doctor Is / What Doctor Is Not]." *The Iowa Review* 42.2 (2012): 178 Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.7195>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

## [WHAT DOCTOR IS / WHAT DOCTOR IS NOT]

### *What Doctor is*

a mark or a branding, when a noun,  
to sharpen or question, when a verb;

a letter of the alphabet,  
OR the entire alphabet;

a physician—without degree or credential—of happening,

a lover of wild creatures,

the foreground, in bright, surgical daylight,

a deliveryman, an empty flour sack folded over his head, his Depend  
box in tow, beat-up Oxfords salvaged from the street, without  
their laces, spray-painted a cracking-white,

a way in which things are

### *What Doctor is not*

a Greek,

a dandy,

a gesture, expressing High-Minded Ideas